

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service providing apparatus connected to an information processing apparatus through a network, comprising:

communication means for communicating with a terminal carried by a person who is going to receive a service;

transfer means for transferring information for guaranteeing a compensation for a service provided through said communication means to said information processing apparatus through said network; and

providing means for providing a service based on information acquired from said information processing apparatus.

2. A service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information for guaranteeing a compensation is an electronic coupon.

3. A service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communication means is a wireless communication.

4. A service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said providing means comprises:

means for issuing a certificate for permitting provision of a service based on said acquired information; and

means for allowing said person who is going to receive a service to enter a site in which the service is provided.

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5. A service providing system having a ticket examiner and an information processing apparatus interconnected through a network for providing a service in compensation for a price, wherein:

said ticket examiner comprises:

communication means provided on a surface of said ticket examiner and based on a non-contact or electromagnetic contact scheme, or conduction of an electric signal; and

means for collecting information on means for settling a service provided through any of said communication means from information stored in a medium communicated through said communication means,

said information processing apparatus comprises:

means connected to a financial institution through said network for decrypting said information on the settling means to a plain text, evaluating the validity of said information on the settling means, making a settlement based on said evaluation through said financial institution and said communication means, and selecting a service to be provided and preparing for providing the service after the settlement, and

said ticket examiner further comprises:

person sensing means equipped therein; and

means for recognizing based on a person sensed by said person detecting means and the

9. A service providing system according to claim 6, wherein said other antenna forming the nearby service area is disposed on a surface which a user approaches, and said nearby service area formed by the antenna for irradiating and receiving electric waves to and from the user extends over a range defined by a wave accessible distance and audible distance, said range having a radius equal to an average distance to a position at which the user is located.



13. A method of providing a service according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

permitting provision of a service based on the result of the reference; and

guiding the person who is going to receive the service to a site in which the service is provided.